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 Elections Division
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2012 Massachusetts State Primary and State Election Schedule

Subject to change by the General Court

Deadline Dates

Calendar of Events

	Party and non-party candidates for district and county offices	Party candidates for federal and state-wide offices	Non-Party candidates for federal and state-wide offices
Nomination papers must be available. (They may be released earlier; check with Elections Division.)	February 14, 2012	February 14, 2012	February 14, 2012
Last day for a person running in a state primary to enroll in a party or for a person running only in a state election to unenroll from a party (except newly registered voters).	February 28, 2012	March 6, 2012	March 6, 2012
5:00 p.m., last day and hour to submit nomination papers to Registrars of Voters for certification of signatures.	May 1, 2012	May 8, 2012	July 31, 2012
5:00 p.m., last day and hour for Registrars of Voters for complete certification of signatures.	May 22, 2012	May 29, 2012	August 21, 2012
5:00 p.m., last day and hour for candidates to apply for review of non-certified signatures.	May 24, 2012	May 31, 2012	August 23, 2012
5:00 p.m., last day and hour for Registrars of Voters to complete review of non-certified signatures.	May 25, 2012	June 4, 2012	August 27, 2012
5:00 p.m., last day and hour to file nomination papers (including party enrollment or voter registration certificate and Ethics Commission receipt) with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.	May 29, 2012	June 5, 2012	August 28, 2012
5:00 p.m., last day and hour to file withdrawals of or objections to nomination papers with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.	June 1, 2012	June 8, 2012	August 31, 2012
5:00 p.m., last day and hour to fill vacancies caused by withdrawals.	June 6, 2012	June 13, 2012	September 6, 2012

PLEASE NOTE: All dates and deadlines below are the same for all candidates

9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., last day to register to vote and to change party enrollment for the State Primaries (except in towns with fewer than 1500 voters registration sessions must be held 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.).	Friday, August 17, 2012
State Primaries	Thursday, September 6, 2012*
5:00 p.m., last day and hour to file withdrawals of or objections to nominations at the state primaries.	Wednesday, September 12, 2012
5:00 p.m., last day and hour to fill vacancies caused by withdrawals at the state primaries.	Monday, September 17, 2012
5:00 p.m., last day and hour for write-in or sticker candidates who won at the state primary to file a written acceptance of nomination.	Wednesday, September 19, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., last day to register to vote and to change party enrollment for the State Election (except in towns with fewer than 1500 voters registration sessions must be held 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.).	Wednesday, October 17, 2012
State Election	Tuesday, November 6, 2012

* The date of the 2012 state primary was changed pursuant to Section 8A of Chapter 171 of the Acts of 2011.